What are the skills needed in coding?

When looking at this question all in our group really focused on the life skills and thinking skills that were necessary to be able to successfully code above the actual language specific terms and requirements. Some of these skills fell into the areas of problem solving, logic, perseverance and mindset. Other areas of skills include the ability to plan and organize how you want to create a program before actually writing the code. Beyond that there are also obviously the skills needed to understand the actual programming language itself and apply the knowledge of that language to build a program.

Problem solving and logic skills are important throughout programming. Programming forces you to think about how to attack a problem. Sometimes the answers aren’t clear, but applying logic and making a plan are often the best ways to start. This also brings in the idea of perseverance. In most instances in programming the right or best answer doesn’t occur easily or the first time. To be successful you have to have a positive growth mindset to persever and try until the program works. When things aren’t going well sometimes the best strategy is to step away from the program for awhile and often coming back later brings new ideas or perspective on how to correct issues.

Finally, being able to use the skills and concepts that we learned in the FOP class are important. The beginning of the course taught us basic calculations and taught us the basics about how to use python and set up programs in IDLE. As the course went on we learned about Boolean values, conditionals, and dictionaries. This expanded our skills and allowed us to attack programs in different ways. As our skill set grew, we needed to also consider what might be the most efficient way to create code. While this wasn’t explicitly graded in the FOP class it certainly is a skill that a good programmer would need.